

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT # 1

Saturday, August 25, 2007

SITUATION OVERVIEW: Widespread and severe wind and tornado events occurred in the late afternoon and evening of August 24, 2007 across central and eastern Michigan. These storms caused damage in the following six counties: Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Lapeer, Livingston, and Monroe.

Eaton County: The worst damage occurred in Benton Township, specifically in the area of Otto Highway and Vermontville Highway. Fire and rescue crews are on-scene in the area of Benton Township. A total of 10 homes were completely destroyed and two pole barns were also destroyed. A search is ongoing to determine injuries and/or fatalities related to damaged / destroyed homes. Inspection crews are also working to determine which structures are safe to enter. The American Red Cross (ARC) is providing assistance to on-scene emergency crews. The ARC has also established an emergency shelter at Pottersville High School. Hayes-Green-Beach Hospital emergency department reported two to three storm related injuries. Eaton County declared a local "state of emergency" (under 1976 PA 390, as amended) on the evening of August 24.

Genesee County: The worst hit area in the county occurred in the City of Fenton where the National Weather Service indicated that the damage was caused by an F-2 tornado. The Michigan State Police / Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) 3rd District Coordinator was on-scene today in the City of Fenton to determine the extent of damage and whether state assistance is warranted. The District Coordinator reported that damage is severe and 25 to 30 roads are blocked and impassable to emergency vehicles. Genesee County reports that two residences have been destroyed, three residences have incurred major damage, 53 have incurred minor damage, and another 148 were affected by the storms. In addition, two businesses have incurred major damage, 14 have minor damage, and eight were affected. The City of Fenton has requested the Governor to declare a "state of disaster" for the City (under 1976 PA 390, as amended) due to the damages incurred and the need for supplemental resources. The City is asking for continued use of MSP troopers as well as Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) assistance. This assistance is necessary because the City is having difficulty clearing roadways of debris. The City of Fenton reported on August 25 @ 1142 that an estimated 90% of the City is still without power.

Ingham County / City of Lansing: Reports indicate a funnel touched down at Jolly Road and Dunckel Road on August 24, causing damage to the Cottonwood Campground. In addition, some trailers were reported overturned in Stonegate Trailer Park on Eaton Rapids Road in Delhi Township. Trees are down across the area including on Frank Road and Bishop Road and on the MSU Campus. Localized flooding also occurred on the MSU Campus on August 24. No fatalities or injuries have been reported. Command posts have been set up at the Stonegate Trailer Park, the Frank Street area, and the Cottonwood Campground. Sweeps of the area are continuing. The Ingham County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been partially activated to handle scene management and damage assessment functions. Assistance is being provided from the City of Lansing EOC, with damage assessment teams reporting to those three sites. One family has been displaced from the Stonegate Trailer Park at this time. The City of Lansing has requested (through the media) that the public stay out of the storm-damaged areas if possible to allow emergency crews to complete their required work. The City declared a local "state of emergency" (under 1976 PA 390, as amended) @ 2100 on August 24.

Lapeer County: A tornado touched down within Hadley Township in Lapeer County on August 24. No injuries or deaths have been reported. The County's primary focus is on debris removal and getting power restored. It appears that the brunt of the storm hit near the area of Brighman Road, Hadley Road, and Gregory Road. The County reports that five homes incurred major damage and 18 incurred minor damage. A total of 30 outbuildings incurred damage as well. Approximately 100 residents are without

power. All affected residents are currently staying with other family members. The National Weather Service is surveying the damage. The tornado appears to have hit a mostly wooded area. Multiple fire agencies have assisted with debris removal and downed power lines.

Livingston County: The County reports that several homes in Cohoctah and Deerfield Townships were damaged or destroyed by the storm (possibly a tornado). Up to 30 individuals have been displaced from their homes due to storm damage. Lodging is being provided at the Kensington Inn (I-96 and D-19), although many of the displaced have sought shelter elsewhere. Preliminary damage figures indicate eight homes destroyed, 23 with major damage, and 40 with minor damage. The County reports that approximately 2,000 households are still without power.

Monroe County: The City of Monroe sustained damage in the form of downed utility wires, broken utility poles, and downed trees. In addition, several buildings incurred superficial damage but nothing widespread in nature. The City declared a local “state of emergency” (under 1976 PA 390, as amended) on August 24 due to the high police and fire call volume for trees, wires, and poles down. The state of emergency was lifted @ 1230 on August 25.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Power Outages: The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) / Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) reported that over 380,000 customers lost power as a result of the August 24 severe storms. As of mid-afternoon on August 25, approximately 130,000 customers were still without power. Of those, 50,000 are Detroit Energy (DTE) customers and 79,555 are Consumers Energy (CE) customers. The areas affected by these power outages include the counties of Allegan, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Oakland and Shiawassee, and the City of Battle Creek. Customers in the hardest impacted areas of Allegan, Battle Creek, and Kalamazoo are expected to be restored by late Sunday evening (August 26) with possible carry over in the rural areas until Monday (August 27). The City of Fenton reported on August 25 @ 1142 that an estimated 90% of the City is still without power.

State Response Actions: In response to the storms, the MSP/EMHSD partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on the morning of August 25 to monitor the situation, collect / compile damage and impact assessment information, and respond to the request for state assistance by the City of Fenton. The SEOC was staffed by representatives of the MSP/EMHSD and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). A representative of Governor Granholm’s legal staff was activated to work on the request by the City of Fenton for a Governor’s “state of emergency” or “state of disaster” under 1976 PA 390, as amended. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) / Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is monitoring power outages in the affected areas and is maintaining management contact with the involved power companies. The MDOT is assisting the City of Fenton with assessment of damage / impacts to roadways. The MDOT has also staged resources in the City to assist with debris clearance as the need arises.

Local “State of Emergency” Declared:

- Eaton County @ 1831 on August 24, 2007.
- Monroe County @ 2100 on August 24, 2007 (lifted on August 25 @ 1230).
- City of Lansing @ 2100 on August 24, 2007.
- Genesee County @ 1000 on August 25, 2007.

Requests by Local Jurisdiction for a Governor's Emergency / Disaster Declaration:

- City of Fenton (Genesee County) on August 25, 2007; specifically requested MSP and MDOT assistance.

Map of Affected Area:

